

WORLD WAR LOOMS

SECTION 1: DICTATORS THREATEN WORLD PEACE

- For many European countries the end of World War I was the beginning of revolutions at home, economic depression and the rise of **powerful dictators** driven by nationalism and territorial expansion



FAILURE OF VERSAILLES



The Versailles Treaty (above on crutches) took a beating in the U.S. and abroad

- The peace settlement that ended World War I (Versailles Treaty) failed to provide a "just and secure peace" as promised
- Instead **Germany grew more and more resentful** of the treaty that they felt was too harsh and too punitive

WEIMAR REPUBLIC RULES GERMANY

- The victors installed many new democratic governments in Europe after World War I including the **Weimar Republic in Germany**
- Most were overwhelmed from the start and **struggled economically**



A German woman is seen here in 1923 feeding bundles of money into the furnace...why?

Exchange rates, US Dollar to Mark, 1918-1923

Source - Gerald D. Feldman, *The Great Disorder*, Oxford: UP 1997, p.5

Jan. 1918	5.21	Mar. 1923	21,190.00
Jan. 1919	8.20	Apr. 1923	24,475.00
Jan. 1920	64.80	May 1923	47,670.00
Jan. 1921	64.91	June 1923	109,966.00
Jan. 1922	191.81	July 1923	353,412.00
April 1922	291.00	Aug. 1923	4,620,455.00
July 1922	493.22	Sept. 1923	96,860,000.00
Oct. 1922	3,180.96	Oct. 1923	25,280,000,000.00
Jan. 1923	17,972.00	Nov. 1923	2,193,600,000,000.00
Feb. 1923	27,918.00	Dec. 1923	4,200,000,000,000.00



This Konstanz 50 Milliarden (million) Mark overprinted on 5 Mark illustrates the extent of the inflation in Weimar Germany

JOSEPH STALIN TRANSFORMS THE USSR



Stalin (right), shown here with Lenin, ruled Russia with an iron fist for nearly 30 years

- After V.I. Lenin died in 1924, **Joseph Stalin took control** of the Soviet Union
- His goals included both agricultural and industrial growth
- Stalin hoped to transform the USSR** from a backward rural nation to a major industrial power

STALIN'S PLANS



- In the first year of his "5-year plan" Stalin placed all economic activity under strict state control
- By 1937, Stalin had achieved his goal—USSR was the world's 2nd largest industrial power



This 1932 poster championed the Soviet Defense Industry

STALIN MURDERS MILLIONS OF SOVIETS



Labor camp workers in Siberia—Stalin sent millions of political prisoners to labor camps

- In his desire to purge (eliminate) anyone who threatened his power, **Stalin was responsible for the deaths of 8–13 million** of his own Soviet citizens
- Millions more died of famine caused by his economic policies

TOTALITARIAN STATE

- By 1939, Stalin firmly established a **totalitarian government** in the USSR
- In a totalitarian state the government suppresses all opposition and has strict control over the citizens who have no civil rights



THE RISE OF FASCISM IN ITALY



- While Stalin was consolidating his power in the Soviet Union, Benito Mussolini was establishing a totalitarian regime in Italy
- Mussolini seized power, taking advantage of high unemployment, inflation and a middle-class fear of Communism

MUSSOLINI CREATES FASCIST PARTY



- Mussolini was a strong public speaker who appealed to Italian national pride
- By 1921, Mussolini had established the Fascist Party – **Fascism stressed nationalism and militarism** and placed the interest of the state above the interests of the individual



MUSSOLINI MARCHES ON ROME

- Despite the fact that King Emmanuel II had already agreed to turn power over to Mussolini (IL DUCE), he staged a mock takeover by marching his black shirts through the streets of Rome in October, 1922



Mussolini marches on Rome, 1922



NAZIS TAKE OVER GERMANY



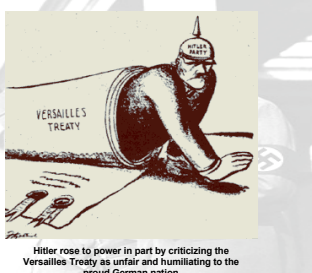
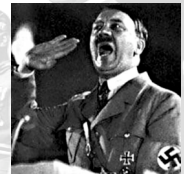
Hitler, far left, shown during WWI

- Meanwhile in Germany, Adolf Hitler followed a similar path to Mussolini
- At the end of WWI he was a **jobless soldier** drifting around Germany
- In 1919, he joined a struggling group called the **National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazis)**
- (Despite its name the party had no ties to socialism)



HITLER GAINS FOLLOWING

- Hitler's ability as a public speaker and organizer drew many followers
- He quickly became the Nazi Party leader
- Calling himself "Der Fuhrer" (the leader) he promised to return Germany to its old glory



HITLER'S BELIEFS



He alone, who owns the youth, gains the Future! — Adolf Hitler, speech at the Reichsparteitag, 1935

- Hitler explained his beliefs in his book, **Mein Kampf** (My Struggle)
- He wanted to unite all German-speaking people under **one grand Empire**
- He wanted racial purity – "inferior" races such as Jews, Slavs and all non-whites were to form a work force for the "**master race**" – blond, blue-eyed "Aryans"



LEBENSRAUM

- Another element of Hitler's grand design was national expansion
- Hitler called it "**Lebensraum**" or **living space**
- Hitler believed that for Germany to thrive it needed more land at the expense of her neighbors



Hitler posed an immediate threat to Czechoslovakia, Poland, Austria, France, Belgium and the Netherlands

HITLER APPOINTED CHANCELLOR



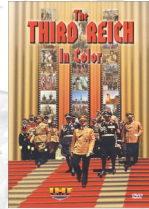
Hitler was appointed Chancellor by the aging President Hindenburg of the Weimar Republic

- By mid-1932, the Nazis had become the strongest political party in Germany
- In January of 1933, Hitler was appointed Chancellor (Prime Minister)
- Once in office he quickly dismantled Germany's democratic Weimar Republic and replaced it with a totalitarian government



THE THIRD REICH

- Once in power, Hitler established the **Third Reich**, or Third German Empire
- The first was during the Middle Ages and the Second came with the Unification of Germany in 1871
- According to Hitler the Third Reich would last 1,000 years



MILITANTS GAIN CONTROL OF JAPAN



- Halfway around the world, nationalistic leaders were seizing control of the Imperial government of Japan
- Like Hitler, they desired living space for their growing population

JAPAN IN THE 1930s

- The 1930s were years of fear in Japan, characterized by the resurgence of right-wing patriotism, the weakening of democratic forces, domestic terrorist violence (including an assassination attempt on the emperor in 1932), and stepped-up military aggression abroad



HIROHITO: EMPEROR OF JAPAN



- Emperor Hirohito's reign lasted from 1926-1989
- Hirohito followed tradition and chose a name for his reign
- His reign was called "Showa", or "Radiating Peace"
- However, he began a military buildup with several attacks on China and a dream of Pacific domination

JAPAN ATTACKS CHINA

- In 1931, Japan attacked the Chinese province of Manchuria
- Swiftly Japan captured the province which is roughly twice the size of Texas



Japanese soldiers in Manchuria



AGGRESSION BEGINS IN EUROPE

- In the early 1930s both **Japan and Germany quit the League of Nations**
- Hitler then began a huge military build-up (in direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles)
- By 1936 **Hitler sent troops into the Rhineland**, a German region bordering France and Belgium that was demilitarized by the Versailles Treaty



CIVIL WAR IN SPAIN



SPANISH LOYALIST AT THE INSTANT OF DEATH by Robert Capra, 1936

- In 1936, a group of Spanish army officers led by **General Francisco Franco**, rebelled against the Spanish Republic
- A Civil War ensued as **Hitler and Mussolini supported Franco's fascists** while the western democracies remained neutral



FRANCO'S FASCISTS WIN CIVIL WAR

- Franco's victory in 1939 established him as **fascist leader of a totalitarian Spain**
- The Spanish Civil War led to a closer relationship between the German and Italian dictators
- Hitler and Mussolini signed an alliance known as the **Rome-Berlin Axis**



Francisco Franco admires a military parade in Madrid – 500,000 died in the Spanish Civil War



Picasso's Guernica captured the brutality of the Spanish Civil War and the Fascist government

U.S. REMAINS NEUTRAL . . . FOR NOW

Some critics felt the U.S. might get involved solely to make a profit

- With memories still fresh from WWI, most Americans believed the U.S. should not get involved in the increasing aggression in Europe
- Some critics believed banks and manufacturers were pushing for war solely for their own profit
- Critics called them "merchants of death"

FDR: WE ARE NEUTRAL AND FRIENDLY

- FDR's policies in the early to mid 1930s reflected a desire to remain out of the growing conflict in Europe
- He recognized the USSR diplomatically in 1933 (exchanged ambassadors)
- He lowered tariffs
- He withdrew armed forces from Latin America



FDR and his secretary of State Cordell Hull study European political affairs very carefully

CONGRESS STAYS NEUTRAL

- Congress, too, pushed neutrality
- **Congress passed a series of Neutrality Acts**
- The first two acts outlawed arms sales or loans to nations at war
- The third act outlawed arms sales or loans to nations fighting civil wars



U.S. NEUTRALITY IS TESTED



FDR speech in Chicago, 10/05/1937

- After Japan renewed attacks China in 1937, **FDR sent arms and supplies to China**
- He got around the Neutrality Acts because Japan had not actually declared war on China
- **FDR promised in a speech in Chicago to "take a stand against aggression"**

SECTION 2: WAR IN EUROPE

- Late in 1937, Hitler was anxious to start his assault on Europe
- **Austria was the first target**
- The majority of Austria's 6 million people favored unification with Germany
- On March 12, 1938, **German troops marched into Austria unopposed**
- A day later, Germany announced its union with Austria



CZECHOSLOVAKIA NEXT



- Hitler then turned to Czechoslovakia
- About 3 million German-speaking people lived in the western border regions of Czechoslovakia called the Sudetenland
- Hitler built up troops on the border . . .

HITLER MAKES A DEAL

- Then, just as an attack on Czechoslovakia seemed imminent, **Hitler invited French leader Edouard Daladier and British leader Neville Chamberlain to meet with him in Munich** (Italy was there too)
- In Munich he promised that the annexation of the Sudetenland would be his "last territorial demand"



Chamberlain and Hitler at the Munich Conference, 1938

Munich Conference, 1938



From left to right: British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, French Prime Minister Edouard Daladier, German Führer Adolf Hitler, Italian leader Benito Mussolini and Italian Foreign Minister Count Ciano at the Munich Conference, September 1938

"PEACE IN OUR TIMES!!?"



Chamberlain: Peace in our time

• Chamberlain and Daladier believed Hitler and signed the Munich Agreement in September of 1938



- This agreement turned over the Sudetenland to Germany without a single shot fired
- Chamberlain returned to England and announced, "I have come back from Germany with peace with honor. I believe it is peace in our time."

APPEASEMENT CRITICS

- Critics of Chamberlain included English politician and future Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** who said Europe had adopted a dangerous **policy of appeasement** – or giving up principles to pacify an aggressor



GERMAN OFFENSIVE BEGINS



German troops invade Czechoslovakia in March of 1939

- Despite the Munich Agreement, Hitler was not finished expanding the German Empire
- March, 15 1939: German troops poured into what remained of Czechoslovakia
- At nightfall Hitler declared, "Czechoslovakia has ceased to exist"

NEXT TARGET: POLAND

- Hitler next turned toward Germany's eastern neighbor – Poland
- Many thought Hitler was bluffing because an attack on Poland surely would bring USSR, Britain and France into war
- As tensions rose over Poland, Stalin shocked everyone by signing a Non-Aggression Pact with Hitler
- Once bitter enemies now Communist Russia and Fascist Germany vowed to never attack each other



Partners: Hitler & Stalin

BLITZKRIEG IN POLAND



BRUTE FORCE: Germans marched through the streets of Polish towns and adorned buildings with swastikas

- As day broke on September 1, 1939, the German **Luftwaffe (air force)** roared over Poland raining bombs on airfields, military bases, railroads and cities
- German tanks raced across Polish countryside

WORLD WAR II BEGINS

- After the Polish invasion, **Britain and France** declared war on Germany
- Too late to save Poland, the Allies focused on getting troops to the front in time to stop Germany's **Blitzkrieg strategy** (Lightning War – fast moving tanks and powerful aircraft)



STALIN ATTACKS EASTERN POLAND



- While Hitler was blitzing western Poland, Stalin was attacking the east
- **Stalin and Hitler had secretly agreed to divide Poland**
- Later in 1939, Stalin attacked and defeated Finland while Hitler conquered Norway and Denmark

